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AI PLATFORMS AND DIGITAL PEDAGOGY IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

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Annotation. This article examines the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms and digital pedagogy in foreign language education. It explores how AI-powered tools such as machine translation, conversational agents, and language learning applications support learners in developing their language skills. The study highlights the advantages of these technologies, including personalized learning, increased motivation, and improved access to educational resources. At the same time, it discusses the challenges associated with their use, such as overreliance on technology, lack of real human interaction, and technical limitations. The article also analyzes popular AI platforms and their features in enhancing language learning. Overall, the paper emphasizes the importance of balancing technology with traditional teaching methods to achieve effective learning outcomes.

Key words: Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital pedagogy, foreign language education, machine translation, language learning platforms, AI tools, personalized learning, EFL learning, educational technology

Introduction

Recent years, the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies has significantly transformed many aspects of human life, including education. In particular, foreign language education has experienced major changes due to the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms and digital pedagogy. These innovations have created new opportunities for both learners and teachers, making the learning process more interactive, flexible, and personalized.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as understanding language, recognizing speech, and providing feedback. In language learning, AI-powered platforms can analyze learners' performance, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and offer customized learning materials. As a result, students can learn at their own pace and focus on areas that need improvement.

Digital pedagogy, on the other hand, involves the use of digital tools and technologies to enhance teaching and learning processes. It emphasizes student-centered approaches, where learners actively participate in their own learning. The combination of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital pedagogy allows educators to create more engaging and effective learning environments.

The Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Language Learning

Learners often compose their ideas in their first language and then translate those ideas into English to complete a writing task. AI-enabled Machine Translation (MT) tools such as Google

Translate or Microsoft Translator allow learners to speed up this process by their functionality to easily look up required phrases or words. Although language teachers often remain reluctant to use MT, studies show this technology enables students to write more fluently, communicate more effectively with fewer lexicon grammatical errors, and even supports development of self-regulated strategies (Lee, 2020). While improved quality of writing is evident when MT is integrated into writing tasks, it is yet to be determined whether use of MT leads to any long-term pedagogical gains in lexical or grammatical knowledge, as research in this area is sparse (Alharbi, 2023).

The situation is more challenging in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) contexts, where teachers often have limited instructional time and teaching resources while confronting large class sizes with differing levels of students' English proficiency (Chen & Goh, 2011) While not developed with educational purposes in mind, intelligent personal assistants (IPAs) such as Alexa or Google Assistant have also been explored in the context of language learning as conversational agents. Research shows that real-time interactivity in the context of task-based and co-operative activities can allow learners to engage in authentic communication, and therefore facilitates development of speaking skills (Dizon, 2020; Tai & Chen, 2023). Moreover, as with other types of AI agents, IPAs contribute to a positive learning environment by serving as non-threatening conversational partners, which is important for reducing learners' anxiety and increasing their communicative confidence (Sandeep, 2019). because language learners can help each other to reinforce learning outcomes with collaborations in online or mobile learning environments (Zou et al., 2016, 2018).

Popular Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms for Language Learning

Several AI-powered apps and tools are designed to assist ELLs in learning languages. Common features across these tools include interactive practices, gamified lessons, and real-time feedback on pronunciation and grammar. Some distinct features may include content recommendations based on individual progress, immersive virtual reality experiences, and the ability to analyze and assist with writing skills (Yerin Seung) Langua is the most realistic Artificial Intelligence (AI) app for language learning. The voices are cloned from native speakers, making conversations feel genuinely human. Combined with detailed feedback, intelligent vocabulary integration, and optional grammar drills based on your mistakes, it's built for those serious about reaching fluency. It also offers a free trial (Alex Redfern 2024) Langua is a comprehensive AI language learning platform that combines conversation practice with smart feedback, immersion content, and vocabulary tools in one ecosystem. Unlike standalone AI chatbots, it's specifically designed for language learners across 23+ languages including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Finnish, Swedish, and more (Christian Tapper) Another important AI based tool is Duolingo is a language-learning platform that offers courses in over 40 languages, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, and more. The platform is designed to be accessible to users of all ages and backgrounds, with a focus on making language learning fun and engaging. Duolingo uses a gamified approach to language learning, with lessons that are broken down into small, manageable units. Each lesson includes a variety of activities, including vocabulary practice, listening exercises, and speaking exercises. As you progress through the lessons, the app tracks your progress and adapts the content to your skill level (Study Metro). Whilst not as realistic or well designed as Langua or Speak, TalkPal is another option if you're looking for a conversational AI for language learning (Alex Redfern 2026). TalkPal's standout feature is its variety of practice modes. Beyond standard AI conversations, you can debate topics, chat with fictional and historical characters, describe AI-generated photos, practice individual sentences, and make audio-only "phone calls" with the Artificial Intelligence (AI). Also, voices are synthetic but serviceable. They're clear enough for comprehension, though they lack the expressiveness and natural rhythm of a real speaker. Its pronunciation scoring is better than most competitors. The app provides a

numerical score out of 100 for spoken sentences and highlights individual words that were slightly off in a different color. However, the scoring lacks actionable guidance. If a word is flagged as mispronounced, the app won't tell you what you did wrong or how to fix it (Nicholas Dunham 2026).

Benefits of Digital Pedagogy

Digital pedagogy values open education renovated from a space where users passively retrieve data and information, conveyed by specialists to a participatory, verbal, or non-verbal platform's extended communication ability. At present, technology 'web 2.0' includes 'Social Networking Applications,' 'Blogs,' 'Wikis,' 'Webbased Presentation Tools,' and 'Online Mind Mapping Tools. In particular to higher education, the institutions promoting unique and innovative approaches, methodology, tools, and techniques to integrate ICT and pedagogy at various educational levels. The use of technology is an inseparable part of digital pedagogy, and it is advantageous only within the framework of fitting pedagogy. Expanded learning opportunities Digital learning is extending learning opportunities worldwide. Education Reimagined celebrates open-walled learning and acknowledges that, "learning happens at many times and in many places and intentionally leverages its expansive nature in the learner's development of competencies. learners with authentic, rich, and diverse learning opportunities. Access to full and part-time online learning means that every student, state policy permitting, has access to many world languages, college preparatory curriculum, and advanced studies. It is remarkable that thousands of university courses by the best professors are available for free to anyone with a broadband connection (Tom Vender Ark 2018|)

Challenges and Limitations.

Despite the many advantages of Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms and digital pedagogy in foreign language education, several challenges and limitations should be considered. One of the main issues is the overdependence on technology. Students may rely too much on AI tools for translation, grammar correction, or answers, which can reduce their ability to think critically and develop independent language skills.

Another significant challenge is the lack of real human interaction. Although Artificial Intelligence (AI) can simulate conversations, it cannot fully replace communication with real people. Face-to-face interaction is essential for developing speaking skills, understanding cultural context, and building confidence in using a foreign language. Technical problems also create difficulties in the learning process. Not all students have equal access to stable internet connections, modern devices, or paid platforms. This digital divide can lead to inequality in education and limit opportunities for some learners. In addition, excessive screen time may negatively affect students' health and motivation. Long hours spent on digital devices can cause eye strain, fatigue, and decreased concentration. As a result, learners may lose interest or become less engaged over time.

Finally, AI systems are not always perfect. They may provide incorrect feedback, misunderstand context, or fail to recognize complex language use. Therefore, it is important to use these technologies carefully and combine them with traditional teaching methods to achieve the best results.

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